

COLLAPSE OF A GAS TANK

Eight Million Gallons of Water Turned Into the Streets.

THE KILLED AND INJURED

The Tank Was the Largest of Its Kind in the World and When It Came Down the Streets Were Deluged by a Ten-Foot Tidal Wave. The Contractor and Chief Engineer Are Placed Under Arrest.

New York, Dec. 13.—The great steel gas tank of the Consolidated Gas company at Avenue A and Twentieth street, the largest of its kind in the world, collapsed at 5.30 o'clock this afternoon. It went down with a crash and roar like a great explosion. Masses of granite blocks and bricks to the height of fifty feet fell like a child's toy house of blocks, and loosened from bonds, eight millions of gallons of water deluged the streets and in a ten-foot tidal wave carried death and destruction through the surrounding neighborhood. It is not known how many were killed or injured. The list of injured is very large. The dead so far recovered are:

ANDREW WELSH, workman, 1902 1/2 Ave. C, engineer in adjacent factory.

Of the injured John Gray, 75 years old, waterman, whose skull was fractured, will probably die.

Over 20 others, so far as have been learned, were injured more or less severely or almost drowned. All of the most severely injured were taken to the Bellevue hospital by a number of ambulances that came to the scene of the disaster in answer to a general call. James J. Conroy, foreman in Pulman's factory at 47th street, and believed to have been in the basement with Engineer Eaton, who was killed, is missing.

Many people were caught in the streets by the rushing waters and were hurled hither and thither, receiving injuries of various kinds.

CONTRACTOR ARRESTED. W. J. Logan of the Logan Iron works of Hempstead, L. I., the contractor who was building the tank, arrived on the scene within a few minutes after the collapse and was at once placed under arrest.

William H. Bruney, chief engineer of the Consolidated Gas company, and said to be jointly responsible for the work with Contractor Logan, was placed under arrest. Both were charged with homicide and their bail was fixed at \$50,000 each.

To make the scene more terrible, the rushing waters tore up gas mains and destroyed electric light conduits, causing almost complete darkness. This latter was partially remedied, but the gas supply below Grand street was almost totally shut off for the night. The plant of the Consolidated Gas company occupies several blocks in the neighborhood of Avenue A and Twentieth street.

On Avenue A beginning at 20th street to the five-story brick factory of Henry Fulmer, manufacturer of extension tables. The other half of the block is occupied by five-story tenements, the property of the gas company and largely tenanted by its employees. Immediately back of the factory and tenements was the great steel tank 125 feet in diameter and 160 feet high. Rising out of the ground to a height of 50 feet was built a great circular wall of granite and brick and many feet in thickness. This was filled with eight millions of gallons of water. The tank was supported by eight steel uprights 212 feet high. The water in the pit fitting against the tank made it "gas tight." A gang of men were at work under a wooden filling the pit with water to make the first "water test."

The great tank with a gas capacity of 3,500,000 cubic feet, and costing \$200,000, seemed to withstand the test well. There were many people on the streets and crowded street cars coming and going. Fifty or more men in Fulmer's factory adjoining were finishing up their tanks. When the water burst through the door and carrying them half a block distant. Both were terribly injured, the little one perhaps fatally.

Henry Fulmer was taken up bodily and carried almost to Twenty-first street. His son was also carried out by his father by the water, but was caught in the debris and but for the timely arrival of some workmen with axes he would have been drowned.

Andrew Wendt, one of the killed, was near the base of the tank when it collapsed. He was caught by the rushing waters and borne an almost incredible distance. His mangled and almost naked body was found against an elevated railroad pillar at Twenty-first street and First avenue, more than a block away.

PROCLAMATION TO FILIPINOS.

President to Issue One Soon—Desires to Avoid a Clash.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The president has prepared a proclamation addressed to the Philippine insurgents similar in character to that which was issued to the Cubans last summer. It is intended to allay any unrest among the Filipinos, make them satisfied with their lot, and increase their confidence in the good faith of the United States. The president was led to issue the proclamation by the reports which have come from Manila lately, and which have been anything but encouraging, indicating a bitterness on the part of Aguinaldo and his followers which may by the means of the president's proclamation be allayed unless the nicest tact is used. The reports which come from the military leaders at Manila and the suggestions made by other army and navy authorities for solving the difficulties in the Philippines are not approved by the president. General Merritt, for instance, in his testimony before the house committee on military affairs yesterday expressed the opinion that a force of at least 30,000 men would be needed to preserve order in the Philippines, and in response to a question by a member of the committee said the insurgents might have to be "kicked."

General Miles, while less frank in his language, and while recommending a smaller force, composed partly of natives, also speaks freely about the need of a strong arm to bring the insurgents to terms.

The reports from General Merritt and Otis, and even some of the reports from Admiral Dewey, have dwelt on the unruliness of the insurgents and have recommended the use of force. President McKinley believes there is a better and wiser way. He believes that the Filipinos are amenable to diplomatic treatment and that kindly tact can accomplish as gratifying results as Krag-Jorgensen. At any rate, the attempt is to be made, and the proclamation is to be issued soon.

The earlier the proclamation is issued, the more critical may the situation be regarded.

THE SITUATION IN SPAIN.

Sagasta May Ask That the Cortes Be Dissolved—Peace Not Yet Assured.

Royal Decree Likely to Be Issued Before United States Has Ratified the Peace Treaty.

Madrid, Dec. 13.—It is asserted here that the premier, General Sagasta, will obtain a royal decree dissolving the Cortes before the ratification by the United States senate of the peace treaty. The semi-official Correo announces that Senor Sagasta, before asking the king to dissolve the Cortes, will confer with Senor Montero Rios, president of the Spanish peace commission, and it is further asserted that, owing to the existence of opposition to the treaty, the United States senate will not confirm it. A dispatch from Rome, Italy, of the 12th inst., reports that the situation there is unchanged. General Rios, the Spanish commander there, is preparing to remove his troops to Mindanao.

Washington, Dec. 13.—For some time the United States and Spain must get along without any treaty to regulate commerce between the two countries. An effort is being made to make an arrangement with the Spanish commissioner looking to the revival of the old treaties until they could be replaced by others. The Spanish commissioner is negotiating for new commercial treaties to be undertaken before the ratification of the peace treaty.

PRESIDENT'S TRIP.

Mr. McKinley and Party Will Attend the Peace Jubilee at Atlanta.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The president and party left Washington at 2 o'clock this afternoon for the Southern railway for a week's trip through the south, the primary object being to attend the peace jubilee to be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The train will arrive in Atlanta at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. The following persons comprised the party: The president, Mrs. McKinley, Secretary Gage and Mrs. Gage, Secretary and Mrs. Alger, Secretary Long and Miss Long, Postmaster General Smith and Mrs. Smith, Secretary Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Secretary Porter and Mrs. Porter, Assistant Secretary Cortelyou, General Joseph Wheeler, Miss Wheeler, General Henry W. Lawton and Mrs. Lawton, Captain L. C. Schreyer, Mr. Adelbert S. Hay, Mr. B. P. Barnes and a number of newspaper correspondents.

NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The national board of trade met here today for its twenty-ninth annual meeting. Mr. Frederick Friley, of Philadelphia, was again president of the board since its organization, was re-elected. Mr. James Buchanan, of Trenton, N. J., one of the vice presidents, in the absence of Mr. Friley acted as chairman of this meeting. Mr. William H. Tucker was re-elected secretary.

The executive council made its report, reviewing matters of legislation in which the board at its previous meetings had discussed and taken action thereon. Cognate subjects on the program were grouped and referred to separate committees for report later in the week.

Suffered for His Brother's Crime.

New York, Dec. 13.—Michael O'Donnell has served ten years of a three-year sentence in Sing Sing prison for a burglary which his brother, James and two other men committed. On his death bed in the Presbyterian hospital, James confessed to the crime for which his brother is suffering. Investigation by detectives of the district attorney's office has confirmed this confession and today District Attorney Gardner sent an official letter to Governor Black recommending O'Donnell's pardon.

Postmistress at Dorranceton.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Agnes W. Wallace was today appointed postmistress at Dorranceton, Pa., fourth class.

TURPIE ATTACKS THE CANAL BILL

MAKES THE PRINCIPAL SPEECH OF THE OPPOSITION.

Mr. Morgan Defends the Nicaragua Canal Bill and Opposes the Motion to Postpone—He Denies That the Maritime Company Has Ever Applied to the United States for Assistance.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Today's session of the senate was largely consumed in the discussion of the Nicaragua canal bill. Mr. Turpie made the principal speech in opposition to the bill, attacking it on the ground that it is in the interest of the maritime company, which he characterized as fraud and bankrupt. He moved a postponement of the matter until after the holiday recess. Mr. Morgan defended the bill and the maritime company and opposed the motion to postpone.

Mr. Berry gave notice of an amendment he will offer to the Nicaragua canal bill, providing for the direct appropriation of money for the construction of the canal and limiting the cost to \$15,000,000. The amendment provides for the construction of the canal by the maritime company and gives the government a lien upon the property, to be foreclosed under circumstances fully enumerated.

Mr. Berry stated the object of the amendment to be to eliminate the bond feature of the bill. Another was to deprive the maritime canal company of any shares of stock as in the present bill, leaving the United States, Nicaragua and Costa Rica the only stockholders. He said he understood Mr. Morgan to be willing to have the bill amended so as to abolish the bond provision of the bill.

Mr. Rawlins also gave notice of an amendment to the Nicaragua bill, providing that the act should not go into effect until the United States should secure by treaty the right to fortify and garrison the canal, to send armed vessels and munitions of war through it in time of war and to close it against any other nation with whom the United States may be at war.

MORGAN'S COMMUNICATION.

At the request of Mr. Morgan a communication was read from Minister Merry, transmitting the remonstrance of the United States to the president of Nicaragua against any change in the status of the canal matter and also a statement from Hon. W. R. Grace, chairman of the executive committee of the syndicate which has recently obtained a right-of-way for the canal across Nicaragua in opposition to the Maritime Canal company's enterprise.

Mr. Turpie addressed the senate, saying that no one could excel him in zeal in advocating the Isthmian canal, but while he saw the vast advantage of the proposed route, he was not fully aware of the difficulties in the way of putting the plan for a canal into execution. He was not opposed to the canal as much as he was opposed to the scheme of the Maritime Canal company and he believed that the United States should not be bound by the way of the granite canal enterprise.

He developed this line of attack, at length, denouncing it as a scheme of confiscation, the object of the Maritime company being, he declared, not to cut a canal but to create a channel of communication at the expense of the United States and the empty coffers of that beggarly corporation.

As to the possibility of foreign jealousy operating to prevent the construction of the canal by the government, Mr. Turpie declared that there was no civilized nation that would not be pleased to see the canal constructed. The Maritime company had been guilty of innumerable frauds but even if it had not he would not support the pending bill because of the existing conditions for the ownership of the canal by the United States. All obstacles would disappear before a movement on the part of the United States to construct the canal; the opposition of Nicaragua and other countries was made to the Maritime company and to only those "vapid, empty and thoroughly groundless pretensions the government of Nicaragua had evidently become tired."

MR. TURPIE'S MOTION.

Mr. Turpie closed for the day with a motion for appointment of a day with consideration of the bill until January 19, by which time the report of the committee would be received. Mr. Morgan antagonized the motion, pleading for the continuation of the debate, saying there was many points connected with the enterprise upon which light could not possibly be thrown by the Walker report.

He denied that the maritime company had ever applied to the United States for assistance, but on the other hand, the application had been made to them because they owned the only concession. He declared in answer to a suggestion from Mr. Turpie that it would never be possible to get an agreement between the United States, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, because of Costa Rica's suspicious of Nicaragua. Costa Rica knew perfectly well that Nicaragua was desirous of nothing so much as the downfall of Costa Rica.

He spoke of Costa Rica's "bargain counter" in the matter of granting concessions and when Mr. Turpie interrupted him with the statement that this was not an expression of amity towards Nicaragua he retorted that Mr. Turpie was proving sentimental on the subject. He declared that the Grace's purpose in getting a new concession was not to build a canal but to own it—to hold the government. He denounced this concession as a "rescued contract." Mr. Grace had called on him twice in one day without being invited and had urged the abandonment of government aid. In reply to a question from him Mr. Grace had said he expected to get his money to build the canal from London. This fact showed where his money was coming and was there

FOUR WARSHIPS FOR HAVANA

THE BROOKLYN, TEXAS, CASTINE, RESOLUTE WILL SAIL.

It is Thought That Their Presence in the Harbor Will Hold the City in Subjection—The Americans Will Guard Against Another Outbreak, Which May Cost Many Innocent Lives.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The Brooklyn, Texas, Castine and Resolute have sailed today from New York for Hampton Roads. While there is not the faintest desire to convey a threat to the departure of these warships to Havana, it may be noted that when they lie within the harbor they will hold the town in perfect subjection. It is surmised that the suggestion came from Admiral Sampson, who is now in one of the suburbs of Havana, as a result of the unfortunate eruption Sunday night at the Hotel Inglaterra. At any rate the event brought the authorities to a sudden realization of the exact state of affairs in Havana, and the imminent danger of another such outbreak, which perhaps may run into the millions of a riot and cost many innocent lives. With only a small force of American soldiers in Havana province and those removed at such a distance from the city as to make it difficult of access in time to be of service to the American authorities in the city, the evacuation of large proportions by the advent of many hundred commercial men and others seeking opportunities for employment, the necessity for some protection was apparent.

To increase the number of soldiers materially is not easy in view of the difficulty of transporting them as well as providing for them when they reach here, but the navy's motto now is "always ready," and it was decided to hasten the ships named to Havana to form a formidable bulwark against any anarchist outbreaks that might occur before the completion of the American occupation of the city. The Texas is a full-fledged armor clad and might stand a deal of pounding even from the heaviest fortifications; the Brooklyn, with her protective system, can be rattled no better than the New York, of the same type, the Castine is an efficient though small gunboat, and the Resolute is a transformed merchantman with a battery large enough to make her formidable.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

Meeting Yesterday Presided Over by Congressman Connell and Ex-Governor Pattison.

Washington, Dec. 13.—At the semi-annual meeting of the trustees of the American university held here today, Hon. William Connell, of Scranton, Pa., president of the board of trustees, and ex-Governor Pattison at the afternoon. Among those present were Bishop John F. Hurst, chancellor; Bishop C. C. McCabe, of Texas; Rev. Dr. W. H. Milburn, chaplain of the Senate; Rev. Dr. C. H. Payne, corresponding secretary of the board of education of the Methodist Episcopal church; Rev. Dr. J. O. Wilson, of Baltimore; Mr. George E. Hukill, Oil City, Pa.; Mr. C. C. Glover and M. G. Emery, treasurer.

The board adopted plans proposed by Bishop McCabe for the organization of a ministerial alliance to consist of 1,000 preachers, each to secure \$1,000; \$1,000,000 in all—for an endowment fund; and also for a woman's guild to raise the same amount. The initial steps towards the organization of the alliance were taken by the election of Bishop Charles M. Fowler, of Buffalo, N. Y., as president, and Bishop McCabe as secretary. Mr. C. C. Glover pledged \$1,000 for the alliance already have been made of \$25,000.

For the erection of the Pennsylvania hall of administration, \$50,000 has been pledged. Dr. W. T. Davidson was elected field secretary to have in charge the raising of funds for the erecting of the Ohio college of government building. An explanation was made by Henry Oves Cobb, of a water colored sketch of the grounds and the proposed building, and also of his elevations of the Ohio college of government and the Pennsylvania hall of administration buildings.

Mrs. Thomas Smith, of Washington; Mrs. Evelyn S. Tome, of Port Deposit, Md.; Rev. Dr. S. Parks Cadman, of New York; Mr. John E. Dubois, of Dubois, Pa.; and Rev. Dr. J. Wesley Hill were elected trustees.

PEACE TREATY.

Provisions of the Document That Was Signed at Paris.

Paris, Dec. 13.—It is learned authoritatively that the peace treaty contains these provisions: The relinquishment of Cuba, the cession of Porto Rico, the cession of the Philippines for \$20,000,000, and embraces plans for the release of Spain's colonial prisoners, a renunciation by both nations of claims against each other, a grant to Spanish trade and shipping in the Philippines of the same treatment as America for ten years, guaranteeing the legal right of Spaniards remaining in Cuba, establishing religious freedom in the Philippines, providing for the administration of justice in the colonies, etc.

To be binding the treaty must be ratified by both nations within six months of its signing.

DEATH ROLL OF A DAY.

Lebanon, Pa., Dec. 12.—Ex-Associate Judge Andrew Light died last night, aged 74 years. He filled the positions of town clerk, assessor, justice of peace and school director in North Lebanon township at different times. He served twelve years as associate judge of the court of common pleas of this county, retiring two years ago.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12.—Charles T. Hart, city editor of the Evening Bulletin, and who has been connected with journalism in New York and Philadelphia for many years, died today from appendicitis. Mr. Hart was for some time a financial writer for the New York Herald and served that paper a number of years as Philadelphia correspondent. Mr. Hart was 48 years of age and leaves a widow and child.

Eaten by Africans.

Antwerp, Dec. 13.—The steamer Leopoldville, which has just arrived here from Africa with Congo advices, reports that four Belgian traders have been killed and eaten by the natives of Upper Ubangui.

Shot Firemen Killed.

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 13.—Only two men were killed in the Wittiveville coal mine near Pottsville, Pa., last night. It is believed that were the only men in the mine at the time of the explosion. The men killed were shot firemen on the regular night round, firing shots, breaking coal for the next day's work.

Steamship Arrivals.

New York, Dec. 13.—Charles: Paris, Southampton, Sables; Sable, Southampton and Bremen; Madrid, Liverpool, Antwerp, Bremen; Kensington, New York.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: Fair; Colder.

1 General—The Senate Debates the Nicaragua Canal Question, Spain and the Peace Treaty. Four Warships Ordered to Havana. Havana Spaniards Are Vindictive. Fatal Collapse of a Gas Tank.

2 General—Nine Men Killed on the New York Central. Financial and Commercial.

3 Local—Doings in Criminal Court. Roller Polo in New England.

4 Editorial, News and Comments.

5 Story—"The Irish Sultans." Dewey Denies Being a Democrat.

6 Local—Defense in the Moran Murder Trial. Mayor Signs the Paving Resolution.

7 Local—No. 8 Shaft at Pittston on Fire. Powder Mill Explodes at Mount Pleasant.

8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.

9 News Round About Scranton.

10 General—Promotions in the Thirtieth Regiment, Industrial News.

EARLY MORNING

DUNMORE BLAZE

Building Owned by John Stanton at the Famous "Corners" Burned to the Ground—Fourth Fire on the Same Location Within Twenty-Five Years—Loss Estimated at About \$7,000.

At 2.30 o'clock this morning fire broke out in the two-story frame building on the corner of Blakely and Drinker streets Dunmore, opposite the Exchange hotel, owned by John Stanton and occupied as a saloon on the first floor by William Boland, and on the second floor as a residence.

The buildings and its contents were utterly destroyed.

The firemen succeeded in confining the flames to the one building.

The adjoining buildings, also owned by Mr. Stanton, were badly scorched. The amount of the loss is estimated as John Stanton \$4,500 and William Boland \$2,500.

This is the fourth fire on the same location in the last twenty-five years. So far as known there was no one in the building at the time.

STATE DAIRY UNION.

First Annual Convention Held at Williamsport.

Williamsport, Pa., Dec. 13.—The state dairy union closed its first annual convention in this city today. The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, H. W. Comfort, of Bucks; vice-presidents, Louis Prolet, Bradford; P. E. Sharpless, Delaware; H. B. Armstrong, McKean; E. L. McSparran, Lancaster, and L. W. Moore, Susquehanna; secretary, Harry Hagedorn; treasurer, S. F. Barker, Dauphin; directors, John J. Carter, Chester; M. E. Perham, Wayne; I. S. Lavey, Erie; F. S. Stalt, Bradford; J. K. Murray, Montour, and J. G. Halderman, Juniata.

The place for holding the next annual meeting will be decided at some future meeting of the executive committee.

The state grange and the farmers' alliance and industrial union began their respective sessions this afternoon. A largely attended public meeting was held by the grange in the evening. Addresses were made by Dr. Rothrock, of the state forestry commission; State Senator Brown, of New York, and others. The alliance transacted only routine business today.

THEY WANT TO FUSE.

Democrats Plan to Capture the State Legislature.

Harrisburg, Dec. 13.—A meeting of the executive committee of the state Democratic Press association was held this evening at the Commonwealth hotel. There were present P. Gray Meek, of Bellefonte; W. Hayes Grier, of Columbia; J. W. Maloy, of Lancaster; Matt Savage, of Clearfield; D. A. Orr, of Harrisburg, and Jere Zeuner, of Carlisle. The following resolutions were adopted:

In the judgment of the committee the Democratic press of the state should immediately unite in a single organization, the legislature the whole of fusing with the independent Republicans, not only in the organization of the lower house, but in the election of a United States senator.

TO EDUCATE LO.

The Appropriation for the Carlisle School Will Be Increased.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Representative Finckham and Superintendent Gibson, of the Lincoln Institute, Philadelphia, appeared before the house committee on Indian affairs today to advocate the retention of an appropriation for that place as an Indian school. The interior department decided that Lincoln institute was a sectarian school and therefore not entitled to government aid. The question was not decided today. It was decided to increase the appropriation for Carlisle Indian school from \$121,000 to \$150,000 upon the understanding that at least 1,000 Indians will be provided for and a number of improvements made to the school. This was done upon the recommendation of Superintendent Pratt.

SPANIARDS VINDICTIVE

American Commissioners Protest Against Their Cruelty.

SANTO DOMINGO REPORT

The Town Sacked by the Colon Battalion on Nov. 27—Cuban Women and Men Insulted—Americans Described as Pigs and Dogs—Troops Divide \$2,000 in Gold.

Havana, Dec. 13.—The city was quiet today. The proclamation of Captain General Castellanos, providing for the maintenance of order, is being strictly enforced. The cafes in the disturbed districts were closed at 6 o'clock last night, the places of amusement were not opened and numbers of guards were stationed in and about the Hotel Inglaterra and the adjacent squares and streets.

Attached to the protest sent on Tuesday last by the American evacuation commissioners to Captain General Castellanos, in regard to the violent acts of Spanish troops retreating from Santo Domingo and Havana, was a document signed by the Alcaldes of Santo Domingo and other civil authorities and notable residents of the town.

The Alcaldes avers that on Nov. 27, the Colon battalion, Colonel Yarrimilla commanding, partly sacked the town, beat Cuban men and slapped the faces of Cuban women. Two or three hours before the time for the battalion to leave, Spanish privates looted a general store and divided \$2,000 in gold among themselves. They then went through the principal streets shouting out "Death to Americans," "Death to Cuba," "Viva Espana," and smashing doors of private houses and beating and slapping any man or woman whom they could catch. A Cuban officer named Ochoa was nearly killed.

It is asserted that the Spanish officers did not restrain their men and they are accused of having themselves broken the telegraph instruments.

The Colon battalion arrived in Havana yesterday. While the soldiers were marching through Central park an officer of the battalion ran to a group of Cubans who were standing on the sidewalk and called upon them to take off their hats. Not complying, he struck several of them with the flat of his sword.

In Ohio street, just before the battalion reached the wharf, the lieutenant colonel, who was on horseback, harangued the crowd, glorifying Spain and describing the Americans as pigs and dogs.

A Spanish mailman embarked on the Spanish transport Juan Forgas and sailed last night for Cadix.

BROOKE APPOINTED.

He Will Be Military Governor of Cuba.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Major General Brooke was today appointed by the president military governor of Cuba.

In answer to a question as to when he intended to assume his new duties General Brooke replied that he would proceed to Havana and take charge just as soon as he could organize his staff and forces. Such disturbances as occurred in Havana night before last, it is believed, may be expected to re-occur there and to happen in some of the other Cuban cities and towns. And as the United States is pledged to restore the reign of law and order to Cuba, General Brooke will be under the necessity of providing an elaborate system of administrative machinery in order to hold the disorderly elements in check and secure a proper application of the laws.

General Ludlow, the governor of Havana, is already giving his attention to the organization of a semi-military force to take the place of the Orden Publico and Guardia Civil, the Spanish police forces which maintained order in town and country. The reorganization of these forces recently has left the country and particularly the city of Havana exposed to an epidemic of crime.

The navy department has taken steps towards possessing itself of the navy yard at Havana and orders just issued assign Commodore B. J. Crowell, now a member of the examining board, to duty as commandant of the new naval station there, and Chief Engineer C. E. Howell and Lieutenant J. H. Glendon and Pay Director J. A. Smith and Surgeon J. D. Gatewood to duty at the same station.

The autonomist government of Cuba established about one year ago, is making a strenuous effort to dispose of a number of very valuable franchises and concessions before the advent of the military government of the United States. These franchises and concessions include the right to construct and operate the Central railroad line of the island including eleven branches and also a network of electric tramways for Havana.

The president, however, has seen fit to put a quietus on the enterprise of the Spaniards and has issued instructions to General Wade, the chairman of our evacuation commission at Havana, immediately to inform the officials of the Spanish autonomist government that the United States strongly disapproves of the proposed disposition of the concessions and franchises described, and to ask that all negotiations for the same be discontinued. It seems probable that this hint will be sufficient, but in case it is not, General Wade's instructions are sufficient to meet any contingency. He is ordered to put a stop to these proceedings without any limitations on his authority in the premises. If necessary there is no doubt that the principals in the scheme would be promptly arrested and imprisoned.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Forecast for Wednesday: For eastern Pennsylvania, fair, continued low temperature; light westerly winds.